

For the New York Observer.

THE POOR IN NEW YORK.

Extract from the Report of the Fifth Ward Committee, to the New York Bible Society.

January 13.—Visited this day a great number of families, some of whom were not only destitute of the Bible, but of every other comfort both spiritual and temporal.

In the damp cellar of a back building found a poor Irish woman confined to her bed by sickness, without fire, food, or any of the necessities of life; after ascertaining that she could not read, we took measures to supply her with some temporal comforts.

Found a poor sick colored man in the garret of a building that did not appear suitable for human beings to inhabit; he had been sick four months, but seemed resigned to his condition, though we fear without any hope in Christ; we saw his wife, who could read, and supplied them with a Bible, as well as contributed a little to their temporal relief.

Visited in the same neighborhood a poor widow who was supplied with the Scriptures; she wished us to sit down that she might have some conversation with us. We complied with her request, and learned from her history that the Bible had been her consolation for many years; her cheerful countenance and meek manner giving evidence that she was no stranger to that peace which the religion of the Bible imparts to the Christian.

January 15.—Visited a family in indigent circumstances that had recently been burnt out, and had lost nearly all of their effects, including their Bible. The woman said she was a Catholic, but that her husband was a Protestant, and that she took pleasure in reading the Bible. She expressed a great deal of gratitude when presented with the sacred volume, and hoped that our Society might be enabled to supply all that were poor and in need of the word of God.

Found in the attic of a house a crippled man who had been confined to his room for a year, he was surrounded by his wife and children, who appeared neatly clad, with cheerful countenances, although destitute of some needful articles of furniture, and (as we supposed) of the means of living. When asked if he had a Bible, his countenance beaming with pleasure, he drew from behind him a Bible that had evidently been frequently read, and laying his hand upon it, "This," said he, "has been my stay and support during my afflictions, and I trust it will ever be dearer to us than earthly treasures." He then related to us the manner in which his wife and children easily supported the family, (as he termed it,) and how thankful he felt that God spared their health.

We thought, on leaving this family, how truly the Apostle represents "Godliness as profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."